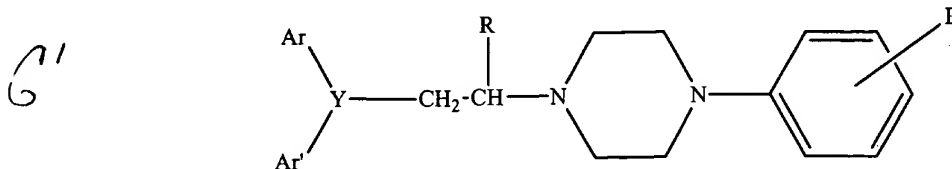


Please amend claims 1 and 3 to read as follows (pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, a mark-up of the amended claims is enclosed on a separate document.)

1. (7X Amended) A compound of the formula



wherein

each of Ar and Ar' is independently selected from a group consisting of phenyl and pyridyl, each optionally substituted by one or more members selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkoxy, cyano, nitro, amino, alkylsulfonylamino, and alkylamino;

Y is a member selected from the group consisting of nitrogen atom, CH, C-OH, C-CN and C-CONH<sub>2</sub>;

R is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group;

B either (a) represents one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of hydrogen atom, alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, alkylsulfonylamino and alkylamino; or (b) together with the phenyl ring to which it is attached forms a 9- or 10-membered fused bicyclic ring selected from the group consisting of naphthyl and 9- or

10-membered rings comprising one or two heteroatoms selected independently from the group consisting of N, O and S, said bicyclic ring optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, alkylsulfonylamino and alkylamino groups,

with the provisos that

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1) when B is methoxy and Y is selected from C-CN and C-CONH<sub>2</sub>, then Ar and Ar' are not simultaneously unsubstituted phenyl or unsubstituted phenyl and alkylphenyl;

2) when Y is CH, Ar and Ar' cannot both be optionally substituted pyridyl;

3) when Y is CH and one of Ar and Ar' is optionally substituted phenyl, the other of Ar' and Ar cannot be optionally substituted pyridyl; and

4) when Y is CH or a nitrogen atom and each of Ar and Ar' are optionally substituted phenyl wherein said substitution is methyl, then B either (a) represents one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of alkoxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, alkylsulfonylamino and alkylamino groups; or (b) together with the phenyl ring to which B is attached, forms a 9- or 10-membered fused bicyclic ring system selected from the group consisting of naphthyl and 9- or 10-membered rings comprising one or two heteroatoms selected independently from the group consisting of N, O and S, said bicyclic ring optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, alkylsulfonylamino and alkylamino groups, and enantiomers, diastereomers, N-oxides crystalline forms, hydrates and

pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

3. (3X Amended) A compound selected from the group consisting of:

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1-(3,3-diphenylpropyl)-4-(2-methoxyphenyl)piperazine;

1-(3,3-diphenylpropyl)-4-[5-(2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxinyl)]piperazine;

1-[3,3-bis-(4-nitrophenyl)propyl]-4-(2-methoxyphenyl)piperazine;

1-[3,3-bis-(4-methoxyphenyl)propyl]-4-(2-methoxyphenyl)piperazine;